

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested. This communication is being filed in response to the Office Action having a mailing date of March 27, 2008. Claims 1, 3-6, 9-10 and 15-16 are amended as shown. With this amendment, claims 1-18 are pending in the application.

Rejections Under Non-Statutory Double Patenting

Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 11, and 13 were provisionally rejected for obviousness-type double patenting in view of copending U.S. Application No. 10/550,713, which has now issued as U.S. Patent No. 7,360,305. Enclosed is a terminal disclaimer overcoming the rejection.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In response, various amendments are made to the claims as shown to provide consistent antecedent basis, to make typographical/grammatical corrections, and/or to otherwise place such claims in better form. Moreover, claim 1 is amended in conformance with the proposed claim drafted by the Examiner, which is considered to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph rejection and distinguish patentably over the art of record.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that these grounds of rejection are obviated.

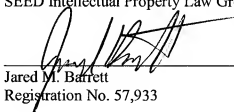
Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims remaining in the application are allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

Respectfully submitted,

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